Click on the data entry box until the I-beam cursor appears. Use the <Back-Space> key to erase errors. A maximum of 20 images can be looped.

- **Choose the direction** forward or reverse.
- If desired, change the number of msec between images.
- If desired, **change the number of msec between the first and last images**.

3. **Click on** Start **.** The Animation Controls window will close automatically. RADS will step through the volume scans or sweeps selected in the image window(s) for the activated looping. An external Animation Window(s) will appear (Figure 2.43) after one pass through each image in the animation.

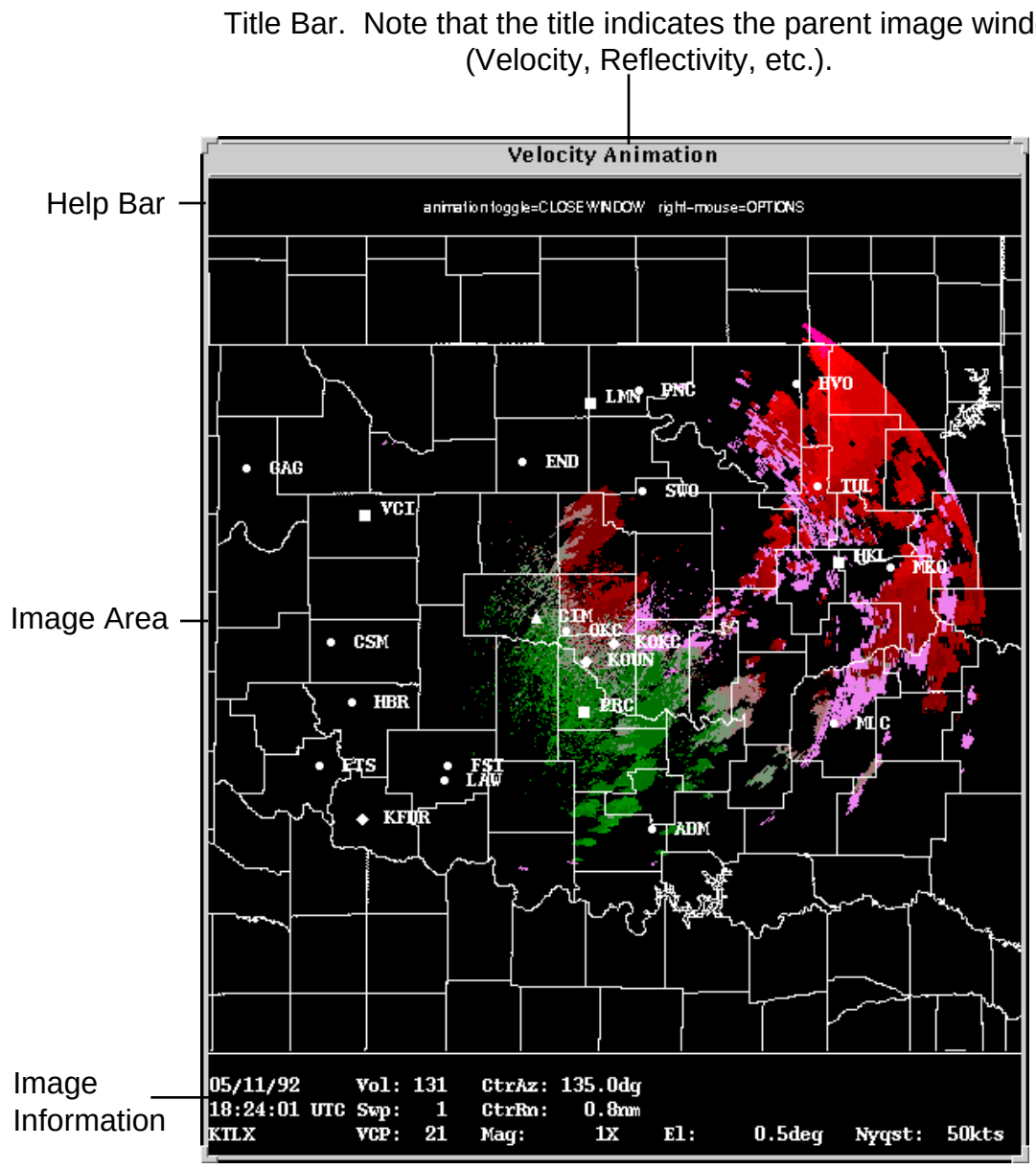

Figure 2.43: An Animation Image window.

An Animation Image Window is not affected by any changes made in its respective "parent" image window. For example, a Velocity Animation window which was started from a **VEL** (velocity) image window will not be affected when products are added to the image window. The Animation Window keeps the zoom factor, products, and other options that were in effect at the time of its activation.

Animation Options

The Animation image window has animation options in a pop-up menu accessible by clicking <right-mouse> on any spot in the image area. (Figure 2.44)
To use this options menu:

In an Animation window, click the <right-mouse> button once on any spot in the image area. The Animation options window will appear, as in Figure 2.44. If you click and release the right mouse button quickly, the options window remains. If you click and hold the right mouse button, the options window remains until you release the right mouse button.

Note that a letter of each command is underlined. Use this **command key** to perform that command.

To change the options from the menu: if you are holding down the right mouse button, move the cursor to the desired command and release the right mouse button. If you have the menu displayed without holding the right mouse button, click once on the desired command.

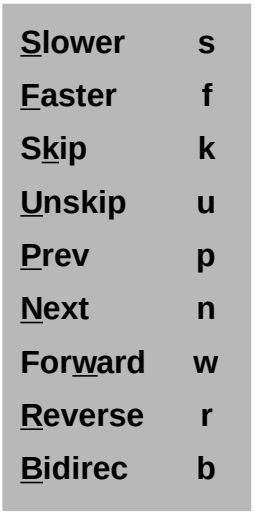

Figure 2.44: The Animation Options menu

To change the options using the command keys: press the command key on the keyboard for the command you wish to activate.

Example: Press **s** to slow the looping **(Slower)**.

The **Prev**ious, and **Next** options work when the Manual stepping feature is turned on and allow you to manually step through a series of images either by volume scan or loop. For more information see **Manual On/Off**.

The **Forward** and **Reverse** options control the direction of looping through time.

The **Skip** and **Unskip** options control the skipping of volume scans or sweeps.

NOTE: You do not need to activate the Animation Options menu to use the commands. Simply pressing the appropriate command key in the animation window will execute the command. The Options menu is useful, however, to view the options available.

Manual On/Manual Off: Manual Stepping Feature

Manual On When activated, the Manual stepping feature in the Animation image window allows the user to manually "step" through each image (volume scan or sweep) by using the **Next** or **Previous** options.

Activating the Manual Stepping Feature

To activate the Manual Stepping feature:

1. **Activate an Animation window using the image type of your choice (Reflectivity, Velocity, Storm Relative Velocity, or Composite Reflectivity).**

2. **Click once on** Manual Off **with <left-mouse> to activate the manual stepping feature.**

   When activated, the button will say Manual On .

3. **Step through the images using the Next and Previous commands:**

   Press **n** to see the next image (next volume scan or sweep).

   Press **p** to see the previous image (previous volume scan or sweep).

Tracking On/Tracking Off: Tracking Storm Features Through Time

Tracking On Using data from the NSSL SCIT algorithm about the average motion of all storms in a series of volume scans, RADS is capable of tracking storms through time. The feature being tracked remains stationary on the window while the landscape/coordinates move. This is useful in studying the evolution of a storm cell or other object. All storms in the image should be traveling with a similar motion, however, for this feature to work. Diverse storm tracks or converging or diverging storm features reduce the usefulness of this capability.

To track a storm feature through time:

1. **If desired, center and zoom the storm feature of interest in a Velocity, Storm Relative Velocity, Reflectivity, or Composite Reflectivity image.**
2. **Click on** Loop **to activate the Loop menu, if it is not already activated.**

3. **Click on** Tracking Off **with <left-mouse> to activate the Tracking feature.**

   The Tracking button will read Tracking On to show that the feature is activated.

4. **Activate an Animation image from a Velocity, Storm Relative Velocity,**

Reflectivity, or Composite Reflectivity image.

The **Tracking On** feature may be used in combination with the **Manual On** feature to track an object and manually step through a series of volume scans or sweeps. (See changing the default motion vector).

Closing an Animation Window

Looping in an Animation image window will continue until you close the window:

To close the Animation window(s), click on Animation On**, the "Animation Toggle" in the Animation Controls Menu.**

When Animation is deactivated, the image window(s) will close automatically and the Animation Toggle will read Animation Off.

More on the Control Panel

Only one Control panel is activated for each RADS session that you start. The Control Panel is a special RADS window that is displayed at all times, and is not closed unless you Quit the RADS session. You may open or close pop-up windows, image windows, and table windows for meteorological algorithm output.

Two RADS sessions may run simultaneously, provided your workstation has sufficient memory. Each RADS session has its own Control Panel.

Later in this guide the specifics of image windows, product overlays, trends and trend sets, tabular output windows and other elements of RADS are explored.